

WI-51  
Wilson Homeplace  
Mardela Springs vicinity (Site)  
Private

c. 1840

The old Wilson Homeplace, formerly located along US Route 50 east of Mardela Springs, was recorded during the early 1970s survey of historic properties in Wicomico County. Photographs taken at that time indicate the three-part stepped or telescope frame dwelling dated from the second quarter of the nineteenth century, most likely during the mid 1840s or early 1850s. The two-story, three-bay, single-pile main block was distinguished by a Greek Revival portico that sheltered the center entrance. To each side of the front door were nine-over-six sash windows. Particularly distinctive to many houses in northern Wicomico County are exterior brick chimneys erected on each gable end. The base of the east end chimney was covered by a single-story hyphen, which joined a slightly taller single-story kitchen to the main house. An evocative turn of the twentieth century photograph of the farmstead captures the three-part dwelling along with a collection of small outbuildings that dotted the immediate yard. Distinguishing the front yard from adjacent fields is a white picket fence featuring two gates, one in front of the main entrance and a secondary gate opening into the kitchen yard.

Construction of this three-part frame dwelling was accomplished by Thomas Wilson prior to his death in 1844 or shortly afterward by his wife, Milly. Thomas

Wilson owned a mid-size plantation of several hundred acres during the second quarter of the nineteenth century. He owned several slaves as well as part interest in nearby Double Mills. True to Thomas Wilson's last will and testament, the farm passed to his wife, who is listed in the 1850 United States census for Somerset County with her son Thomas W. Wilson, an 18-year old farmer. A "Thos. Wilson" is designated on the Barren Creek district map in the 1877 lower Eastern Shore atlas. The farm remained in Wilson family hands throughout the balance of the nineteenth century and for much of the twentieth century. Abandoned by the early 1970s, the house was eventually demolished.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Wilson Homeplace

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-51

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Agricultural-Industrial Transition  
1815-1870
4. Resource Type(s): Farmstead (site)

Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Wilson Homeplace

and/or common

**2. Location**

street &amp; number US Route 50 \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Mardela Springs ☒ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
___ building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Howard Sand &amp; Gravel

street &amp; number telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code MD 21801

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber JWTS 223

street &amp; number Wicomico County Clerk of Court folio 484

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

date 1973 \_\_\_ federal ☒ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state MD 21032

## 7. Description

Survey No. WI-51

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☒ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The old Wilson Homeplace was located on the north side of US Route 50 a mile east of the village of Mardela Springs, Wicomico County, Maryland. The three-part frame house faced south with the principal gable roof oriented on an east/west axis. The house stood on the site until the mid 1970s.

Estimated to date around 1840-50, the two-story, three-bay main block extended eastward with a single-story, three-bay hyphen that joined a slightly taller single-story kitchen to the main block. Supported on a minimal brick foundation, the exterior was sheathed with plain weatherboards and the medium to steeply pitched gable roofs were covered with asphalt shingles. From the available photographs, the house appears to have been erected in one period.

The south (main) elevation was a three-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking nine-over-six sash windows. The four-panel front door was framed by a molded surround, and the entire doorway was sheltered by a gable-roofed Greek Revival portico supported on square posts. Pilasters were attached to the weatherboards. The second floor was lighted by three evenly spaced six-over-six sash windows framed by molded surrounds. Trimming the base of the gable roof was a boxed cornice enriched with mid nineteenth century bed and crown moldings.

The east gable end was partially covered by the single-story, three-bay hyphen, which covered the base of the exterior brick chimney fixed to the east gable end of the main block. Piercing the upper wall surface to light the attic was a two-over-two sash window. The gable end was finished flush with a narrow bargeboard. The three-bay hyphen had a center door and flanking six-over-six sash windows. Early-to-mid twentieth century additions to the hyphen included six-over-six sash gabled dormers as well as a five-panel door to the south entrance. Attached to the east end of the hyphen was a slightly taller single-story kitchen served by an interior end chimney.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. WI-51

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

## Specific dates

## Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

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Construction of this three-part frame dwelling was accomplished by Thomas Wilson prior to his death in 1844 or shortly afterward by his wife, Milly. True to Thomas Wilson's last will and testament, the farm passed to his wife,<sup>1</sup> who is listed in the 1850 United States census for Somerset County with her son Thomas W., an 18-year old farmer.<sup>2</sup> Thomas is designated on the Barren Creek district map in the 1877 lower Eastern Shore atlas.<sup>3</sup> The farm remained in Wilson family hands throughout the balance of the nineteenth century and for much of the twentieth century. Abandoned by the early 1970s, the house was eventually demolished.

<sup>1</sup> Somerset County Register of Wills, JP 5/128, proved 13 December 1844.

<sup>2</sup> Seventh Census of the United States, 1850, Population Schedule for Somerset County, transcribed by Ruth T. Dryden.

<sup>3</sup> John L. Graham, ed. The 1877 Atlas and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Wicomico County Bicentennial Committee, p. 10.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-51

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant date 2/12/99

street &amp; number P O. Box 5 telephone 410-651-1094

city or town Westover state Maryland 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST**  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600

WI-51  
Wilson Homeplace  
Hebron vicinity (site)  
Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title

JWTS 223/484

Levin C. Bailey, trustee

to

5/27/1940

Marion E. Wilson

Decree of Circuit Court, 11/13/1939, Marion E. Wilson and Robert L. Wilson were plaintiffs and James Wilson Bounds, Jr. et al. were defendants being No. 5826 in Chancery, Property was sold at auction for \$5,300 Plat filed in Chancery case, being the home farm of the late Thomas Wilson that was devised by him to his wife Millie Wilson for life and then to his youngest son Thomas W. Wilson, by the First item of this last will and testament dated 12/13/1844, JP 5/128

Somerset County  
Will Book  
JP 5/128

Last Will and Testament of Thomas Wilson

to wife, Milly  
and then to Thomas W. Wilson

Written  
5/13/1844  
Proved  
12/13/1844

I give and bequeath unto my dear beloved wife Milly Wilson my home farm during her lifetime or widowhood and after decease or a intermarriage I give and bequeath to my youngest son Thomas W. Wilson the farm above named to him, his heirs and assigns forever more

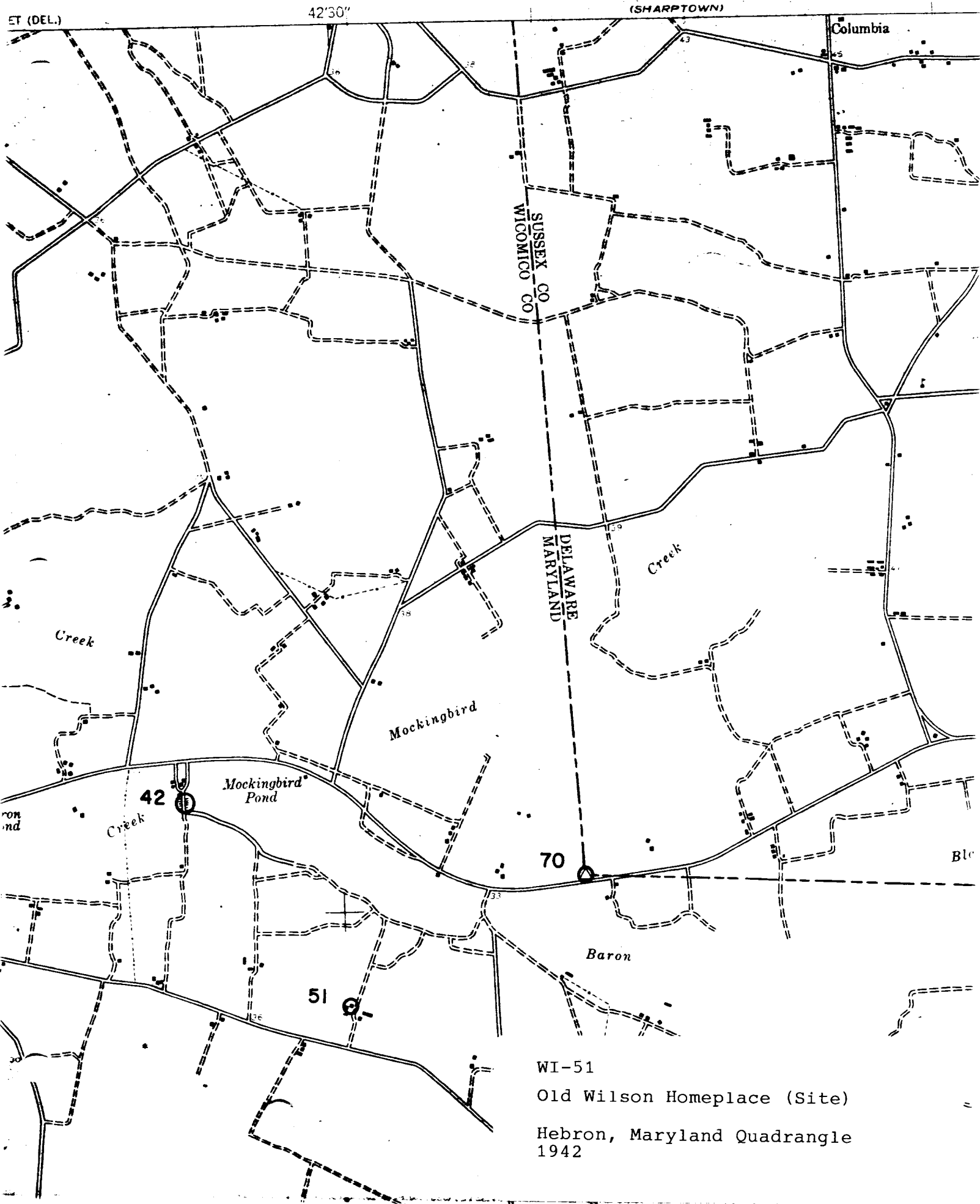
also mentioned "negro boy called Joseph on the condition of his paying over to my second eldest son William J. Wilson seventy five dollars...

to William J. Wilson-interest in Double Mills purchased from Jesse Walter and William Williams



# WICOMICO

COUNTY





W-98

Old Western landscape

Mountain, trees, and valley - 2000 ft.

Painted on a wall

Color - red, black, and white - Brown

<p>1. STATE <u>Maryland</u>  COUNTY <u>Wicomico</u>  TOWN <u>Hebron</u> VICINITY  STREET NO. <u>Rt 50, 2.7 miles N.W. of Rt 347</u>  (North)  ORIGINAL OWNER  ORIGINAL USE <u>dwelling</u>  PRESENT OWNER <u>Marion E. Wilson</u>  PRESENT USE <u>vacant</u>  WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>frame</u>  NO. OF STORIES <u>2, 1½, 1</u></p>		<p style="text-align: center;">HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <u>Wi-51</u></p> <p>2. NAME <u>Wilson House</u>  DATE OR PERIOD <u>c. 1800</u>  STYLE <u>Colonial</u>  ARCHITECT  BUILDER</p> <p>3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE</p>			
<p>4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION <span style="float: right;">OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>No</u></span></p> <p><u>3 part (big house, hyphen, kitchen)</u>  <u>{ 2, 1½, 1½ }</u></p> <p><u>Frame on brick foundation (beaded clapboard on south facade</u>  <u>asbestos on other sides)</u></p> <p><u>1. 3 bays long with center door</u>  <u>entrance portico - late nineteenth century</u>  <u>(1) nine over six sash - (2) six over six sash</u>  <u>two over two sash in attic</u>  <u>two exterior chimneys -- becoming free-standing just</u>  <u>below ridge</u>  <u>"A" roof</u></p> <p><u>2. three bays long -- center door -- six over six sash</u>  <u>two "A" roof dormers on "A" roof -- six over six sash</u>  <u>(1 shed dormer in rear)</u>  <u>clapboard on south facade</u></p> <p><u>3. two bays -- "A" roof</u>  <u>one dormer on north side of house</u></p>					
<p>5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE <span style="float: right;">Exterior <u>fair</u></span></p> <p><u>chimney on east gable</u>  <u>lean-to enclosed porch on back (north) of hyphen and wing</u>  <u>lattice-covered well house, smokehouse, <u>quarters house</u> (?) with</u>  <u>double doors.</u>  <u>picket fence around house and outbuildings</u></p>					
<p>6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)</p> <p>7. PHOTOGRAPH</p>		<p>8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)  INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.  <u>Forman, H. Chandler, Old Buildings, Gardens +</u>  <u>Furniture of Md.</u></p>		<p>9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER  <u>Michael Bourne</u>  <u>MD. HISTORICAL TRUST</u>  <u>BOX 1704</u>  <u>ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404</u>  DATE OF RECORD <u>Jan, 1970</u></p>	



WILSON HOUSE

WI-51